

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 1-17, 19-29, 31-33, 35-38, 40-47, 49-51, 53, and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,518,640 of Suzuki et al. ("Suzuki").

Claims 18, 30, 34, 39, 48, and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,704 of Asai et al. ("Asai").

Status of Claims

Claims 43-56 are pending in the application. Claims 43, 49, 53 and 54 have been amended to more properly define a preexisting claim limitation. **The amended claims are supported by the specification, for example, on page 15, line 25 to page 16, line 7 and Figures 16, 17 and 19.** Claims 55 and 56 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-42 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claim Rejections

Claims 43-47, 49-51, 53 and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki. It is submitted that claims 43-47, 49-51, 53 and 54 are patentable over the cited reference. Each of the independent claims 43, 49, 53 and 54 include the limitation of:

said spatial variation being determined based on **a variation of a chief ray angle** of said non-telecentric lens across a focal surface of the non-telecentric lens

(emphasis added)

It is submitted the Suzuki does not disclose spatially varying optical component offsets based on a variation of chief ray angle of a non-telecentric lens across a focal surface of the non-telecentric lens. Suzuki discloses an optical system in which the position of its microlens is dependent on the “f” number of the camera lens system. Moreover, Suzuki discloses that the offset amounts with respect to the light receiving part for its micro-lens, color filter and aperture are calculated based a simple sin function. (Suzuki, col. 14, line 39 to col. 17, line 16; Figs. 8a-8c).

In contrast to Suzuki, the independent claims of the present application include the limitation that the spatial variation of an optical component is based on **a variation of a chief ray angle** of said non-telecentric lens across a focal surface of the non-telecentric lens. It should be noted that the chief ray angle is not determined by the f number of the optical system but, rather, by the “non-telecentricity” of the lens. Nothing in Suzuki discloses spatially varying optical component offsets based on a variation of chief ray angle of a non-telecentric lens across a focal surface of the non-telecentric lens. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 43, 49, 53 and 54, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Suzuki.

Claims 48 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,704 of Asai et al. (“Asai”). Claims 48 and 52 depend from independent claims 43 and 49, respectively. It is submitted that Asai fails to cure the deficiencies of Suzuki noted above with respect to claims 43 and 49 and, therefore, claims 48 and 52 are patentable over a combination of the cited references.

In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the arguments **and amendments** set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome.


If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Daniel Ovanezian at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 9/25, 2007

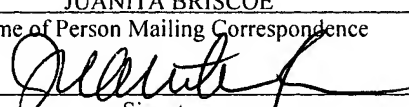

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